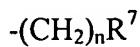


a 3

7. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ independently represent hydrogen, a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by a hydroxy or dimethyl amino group, a propynyl group or an amidino group.

8. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R⁴ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group and R⁵ represents a group of formula

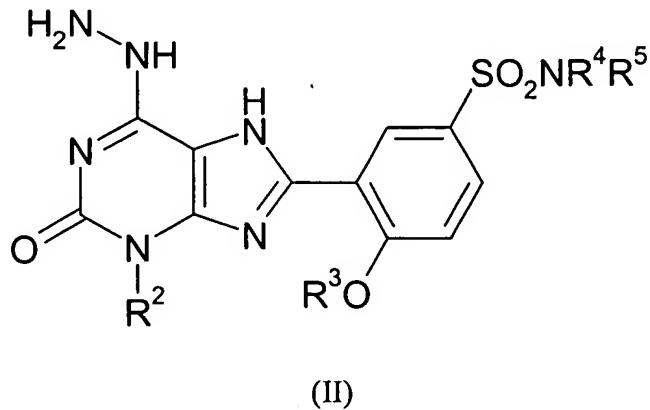


wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and R⁷ is a pyridyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1-ethylaminocyclohex-1-yl, 1-diethylaminocyclohex-1-yl, 1-ethylaminocyclohept-1-yl, 1-diethylaminocyclohept-1-yl, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidin-4-yl, imidazoyl, 1-methylpiperid-4-yl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperid-4-yl, 4-hydroxypiperid-4-yl, 1-acetamidocyclohept-1-yl, 1-methyl-3-azetidinyl or 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl group.

9. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 characterised in that it has an IC₅₀ value for the inhibition of PDE 5 of less than 30 nM.

a 4

11. (Amended) A process for preparing a compound as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reacting a hydrazinopurine derivative of formula (II)

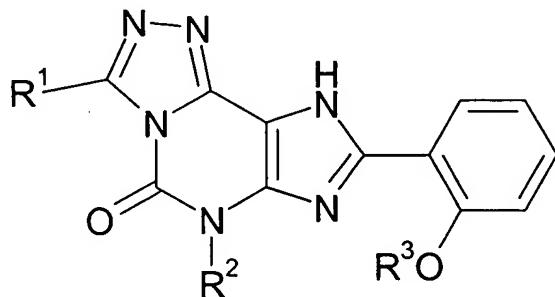


contd.
a⁴
wherein R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined in claim 1, with a carboxylic acid of the general formula (III):



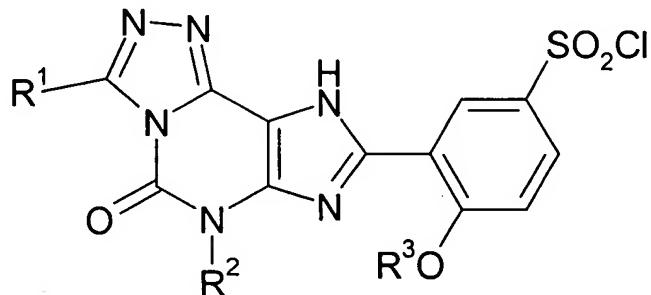
wherein R¹ is as defined in claim 1, or a reactive derivative thereof optionally in the presence of a polar aprotic solvent.

a⁵
18. (Amended) A process for preparing a compound as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reacting a phenylxanthine of formula (IX):



(IX)

wherein R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1, with chlorosulphonic acid so as to obtain the sulphonyl chloride of formula (X):



(X)

wherein R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1, and reacting the sulphonyl chloride of formula (X) with an amine of formula (VIII):